



EMPLOYMENT SKILLS PROGRAM

The Employment Skills Program (ESP) is designed to provide job seekers with disabilities who have a limited work experience with an opportunity to experience career opportunities, develop skills, and build a positive work history. This is a temporary work experience that provides up to 250 hours that's funded by the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Programs in the Divisions of Rehabilitation Services and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired.

ESP Process

- Once a job seeker expresses interest in learning more about a business a particular position, a VR representative and/or job seeker will establish contact.
- If the business grants permission for a work experience, then negotiation will occur regarding the amount of hours necessary, etc.
- Before the job seeker begins with the work experience, paperwork will need to be completed in which VR will provide assistance with resulting in minimal time for a business.
- Depending on individual circumstances, VR may provide additional one-on-one support to the job seeker and business as they begin working where an employment specialist may be involved.
- This is a huge benefit for a business to get to know a potential employee's skills, abilities, etc.

VR provides Worker's Compensation insurance for individuals approved for this program. If the individual gets injured, they should contact the VR Counselor as soon as possible to complete the First Report of Injury Report. Employers are not responsible for the Worker's Compensation expenses; however, they are required to have general liability insurance. This insurance covers general accidents that may occur on their property. For example: if an individual trips a customer by accident, the employer would pay for the customer's injury, like they do for other employees.